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Tuesday, May 31, 1994

Mr. William F Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington DC 20554

Ref: GEN. Docket 90-314

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**Ex parte; comments of ROLM on the subject of the
modified PCS band plan proposed by Motorola on May 25, '94**

Dear Mr. Caton,

The modified PCS band plan, as submitted by Motorola on May 25, now being widely discussed will have significant impact ROLM's ability to deploy product in the UPCS spectrum, the elimination of the Lower Isochronous UPCS band will preclude the deployment of some technologies. We also note that the fixed segmentation of the Isochronous UPCS band will make devices, capable of inter-operating between the UPCS and LPCS bands, very complex. The elimination of the Lower band, with it's more flexible segmentation, will aggrandize this problem.

Whereas we do find merit in Motorola's band plan proposal, we would like to request that the Commission also consider the following items when deliberating on this matter.

1. The current band plan, allocating 40 MHz of spectrum for UPCS, was adopted by the Commission on September 23, '93¹. The rules governing this plan did go into effect on Jan 7, '94². Since September '93, ROLM has undertaken a development effort, to allow us to utilize these provisions, leading to a set of products more suited for deployment in the Lower Isochronous band. Unless the FCC adjusts the characteristics of the remaining Upper Isochronous band, much of our effort over the last 6 to 9 months will be unproductive.
2. ROLM and many other manufacturers have repeatedly requested that fixed segmentation be removed in the UPCS band. The segmentation of the 2 Isochronous bands is not the same, narrow band products can be deployed in both the bands, whereas wideband products can only be deployed in the Lower Band, this is not an equitable spectrum allocation. The elimination of the fixed segmentation in the Isochronous band(s) would eliminate the difference between these bands and make it equitable. ROLM believes that this should be done whether or not there are any changes to the band plan, however, segmentation must be removed if the band plan is revised and the Lower band removed.
3. The reduction of the allocated spectrum for UPCS from 40 MHz to 20 MHz, is likely to lead to congestion. Significant evidence has been provided to, and accepted by, the FCC that the

¹ FCC, Second Report and Order, Gen. Docket No. 90-314, FCC ref. 93-451, Date Sept 23, 1993

² Federal Register - Vol. 58 No 214. 58 FR 59174 - Date Nov 8 1993 - Action: Final rule.

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minimum spectrum requirement for UPCS is well above 20 MHz³. Additional spectrum to counter for the proposed reduction in the present UPCS allocation must be identified expeditiously to allow manufacturers to develop a single set of products capable of operating in the full UPCS spectrum or at least to be able to consider impacts.

Additionally, we would like to restate, that the fixed segmentation of 1.25 and 5 MHz in the Isochronous UPCS bands is unduly restrictive and is likely to significantly increase the cost of devices capable of operating in both the LPCS and UPCS bands. It should be noted that there are several standards in development within TIA and ANSI for LPCS systems, the majority are unlikely to use 1.25 MHz (or even a sub-harmonic of 5 MHz) for their segment spacing.

The fixed segmentation, as defined in 15.321, is likely to preclude the development of economically priced, interoperable end user devices capable of being deployed across the full PCS band (both licensed and unlicensed). This is contrary to the general trend in the telecommunication industry; i.e. the movement away from proprietary CPE equipment (e.g. proprietary digital phones are being replaced by ISDN phones which can be deployed both in the public and private networks).

Please note, ROLM is not advocating the use of UPCS spectrum by common carriers, we do agree with AT&T⁴ that the FCC should preclude common carriers from offering tariff services in the UPCS band, however, this need not preclude the use of UPCS products as CPE.

In conclusion, we would like to request that the Commission also:

- eliminates the fixed segmentation in the UPCS band
- clearly identifies any additional UPCS spectrum allocations outside of the current 1850-1970 MHz band

Sincerely,



Peter Kozdon
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³ FCC, Second Report and Order, Gen. Docket No. 90-314, para. 81..88

⁴ AT&T Petition of Reconsideration - filed Dec. 8, 1993